



# The Emerald News

Office of  
Councilmember  
Marti Emerald



Volume 6, Issue 9

September 2014

## District 9

### Communities

- Alvarado Estates
- Azalea Park
- Castle
- Cherokee Point
- Chollas Creek
- Colina Park
- College Area
- Corridor
- Denstedt Point
- El Cerrito
- Fairmount Park
- Fairmount Village
- Fox Canyon
- Hollywood Park
- Islenair
- Kensington
- Mountain View
- Mt Hope
- Ridgeview
- Rolando
- Saranac-Mohawk
- Southcrest
- Talmadge
- Teralta-East & West
- Willie Henderson

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Dear Friends:

I spent a lot of my time this summer working to improve the lives of thousands of workers in San Diego and wanted to take a moment to tell you all about it. In this Newsletter you will read about how I recently partnered with the City Attorney's office to look at ways to reform San Diego's taxicab industry and how my council colleagues and I recently voted to override the Mayor's veto of the minimum wage and sick leave ordinance.

### San Diego's Taxicab Industry

On Thursday, August 28, I joined our City Attorney Jan Goldsmith, several taxicab drivers and members of the media for a news conference where I addressed questions regarding my reform proposals to the city's taxicab policies - including the removal of the cap on the number of taxicab medallions in the City of San Diego.



Pictured above: Councilmember Emerald recently hosted a news conference to announce plans to reform the taxicab industry

An item that drew hundreds of taxicab drivers to the meeting had to do with the current cap on the number of city issued taxicab permits, as many of these issues stemmed from the current policy. To help address this issue, the committee requested legal support from City Attorney Jan Goldsmith's office who at this news conference shared his report, "Removing the Current Limitation on the Number of Taxicab Permits." This item will be heard in the September 18 Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee meeting.

### Earned Sick Leave and Raising San Diego's Minimum Wage

On August 18, my colleagues and I voted 6-2 in favor of overriding the Mayor's veto of San Diego's Earned Sick Leave and Minimum Wage ordinance. An ordinance that will allow workers in San Diego to earn 5 days of sick leave and will also raise minimum wage to \$9.75 in January 2015, \$10.50 in January 2016 and \$11.50 in January 2017.

I am proud to have included the 5 days of earned sick leave in this ordinance, and with Council President Todd Gloria leading the charge for raising the minimum wage, we are on the way towards providing support and relief to thousands of individuals and families throughout San Diego. Workers will have more money in their pockets to better provide for themselves and their families, and when they are sick they will be able to stay home and rest instead of having to choose between going to work ill or losing a day's pay.

*- Marti*

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## A New Garden for the Campus

*Original Article By* **Coleen L. Geraghty** from SDSU News Center



A small group of gardeners has come out to water and weed on a hot August day. They are mix of SDSU staff and neighborhood residents, all clearly gifted with very green thumbs. In their raised planter beds is the bounty of summer—tomatoes, squash, onions, garlic, herbs and peppers of many hues.

Though the fall semester was still weeks away on this steamy afternoon, several students arrived for a working tour of the urban farm. Members of Green Love, the Aztec student organization committed to sustainability on campus, they are potential gardeners themselves. Of the 80-plus raised planter beds in the community garden, half are reserved for SDSU faculty, staff and students.

The garden took shape when a small group of enthusiasts from SDSU and the College View Estates neighborhood met in 2011 to create a community garden/urban farm with the added benefit of fostering a greater sense of community between local residents and SDSU students, faculty and staff. A nine-person volunteer board was elected, and **Henry Bertram**, CEO of family-owned San Diego Craftsman Construction, Inc., became its first president. In addition to leasing garden beds at a reasonable cost, the College Area Community Garden will sponsor educational workshops and offer classes on organic farming and planet-friendly agricultural practices.

The College Area Community Garden has received financial support from San Diego Gas and Electric, in partnership with the San Diego Urban Corps; the City of San Diego through Councilmember Marti Emerald's office; the County of San Diego; and more than 15 other private and corporate sponsors.



## Job Fair in City Heights



El Super and Councilmember Emerald's office recently sponsored a job fair in City Heights. There was a great turn out with over 250 applicants in attendance in the first day alone. She is looking forward to working with El Super to provide good paying jobs and benefits for our local community. Thanks to the Park and Recreation Department for helping accommodate applicants and to all of Councilmember Emerald's facebook friends who helped get the word out about this event!

## Delivering Resources



18 year old honor student Rickquese McCoy was at the wrong place at the wrong time when his life was taken during a violent shooting back in late 2012. His passing inspired his neighbors to take action to prevent this tragedy from happening again. Councilmember Emerald joined his family in celebrating his life with the installation and activation of eight new street lights on 44th St. that will bring light to these streets that have been darkened by tragic events. Street humps in the surrounding streets have also been added to slow down traffic.

# Marti and the Community



Councilmember Emerald recently gathered with friends to celebrate with Dr. Irwin Jacobs' honorary doctorate from National Tsing Hua University.



Councilmember Emerald having fun with neighbors from District 9 and the El Cerrito community at their annual Block Party



Councilmember Emerald would like to thank everyone who joined her for a cup of coffee at the Manzanita Gathering Place. She enjoyed the insightful questions and concerns shared by members of the City Heights community and would like to give a special thanks to the Ocean Discovery Institute and Canyonlands volunteers for helping make this event successful! Look out for a community coffee with Councilmember Emerald in your neighborhood in the near future!

## INTERNSHIPS

San Diego City Councilmember Emerald's office is currently accepting applications from motivated high school and college students looking to gain experience interning for an elected official.

Interested applicants should e-mail Julio Rivera a cover letter, résumé and at least one letter of recommendation to [jcrivera@sandiego.gov](mailto:jcrivera@sandiego.gov). Please feel free to call (619) 236-6725 with any questions.